

Soitec Solar Development Final Program EIR

LOG NO. PDS2012-3910-120005 (ER); 3800-12-010 (GPA); TIERRA DEL SOL, 3300-12-010 (MUP); 3600-12-005 (REZ);

3921-77-046-01 (AP); RUGGED SOLAR, 3300-12-007 (MUP); SCH NO. 2012121018

**San Diego County Board of Supervisors hearing
February 4, 2015**

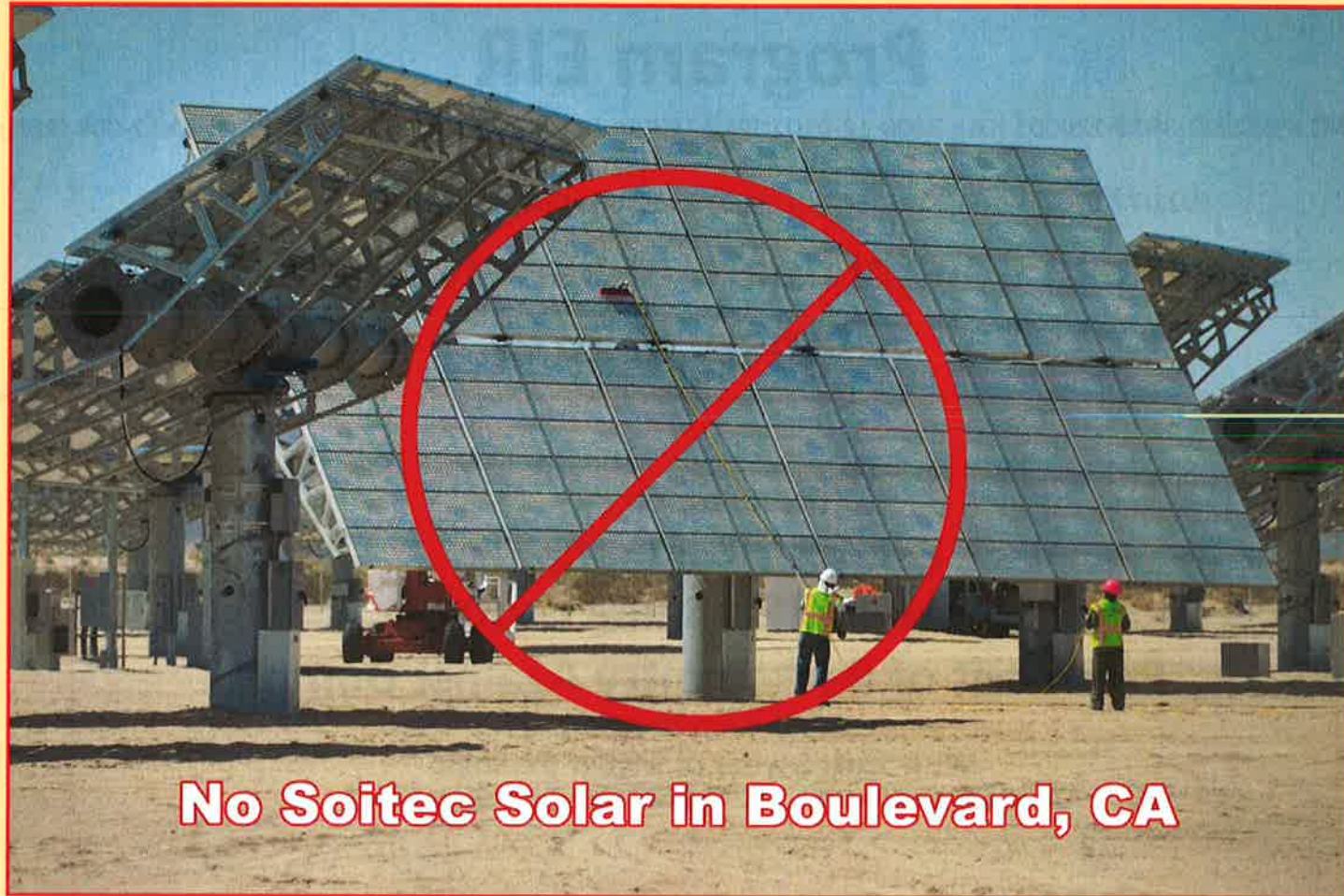
Presentation by

**Donna Tisdale, Chair,
Boulevard Planning Group &
President of Backcountry Against Dumps
a 501 c 4 non-profit**

**With Scott Snyder of Snyder Geologic
& Mark Ostrander, retired Cal Fire Battalion Chief**

Any errors or omissions are unintentional

Please vote NO!



No Soitec Solar in Boulevard, CA

“We are all entitled to our own opinion but not to his own facts....”

Daniel Patrick Moynihan

- ***The FEIR is neither factually or financially responsible and should be rejected.***
- Weasel words, obfuscation, and unsupported assumptions are used to downplay and manipulate Soitec's real world impacts, that will destroy existing rural uses and community character.
- ***It is a fairy tale where all bad things are magically mitigated into mere nothingness.***

FEIR is too flawed to fly ~ ***CEQA requires a re-circulated EIR***

- Predetermined Outcome
- Late addition of 160 MW/cargo containers of experimental battery storage; new Alternative 2 a;
- **Remaining FIRE & GROUNDWATER issues/controversies**
- Distorted Descriptions preclude full and accurate analysis of impacts and identification of reasonable alternatives.
- Basic assumptions are either wrong, missing, inadequate, unsupported, or questionable
- ***CEQA requires a revised and re-circulated EIR***

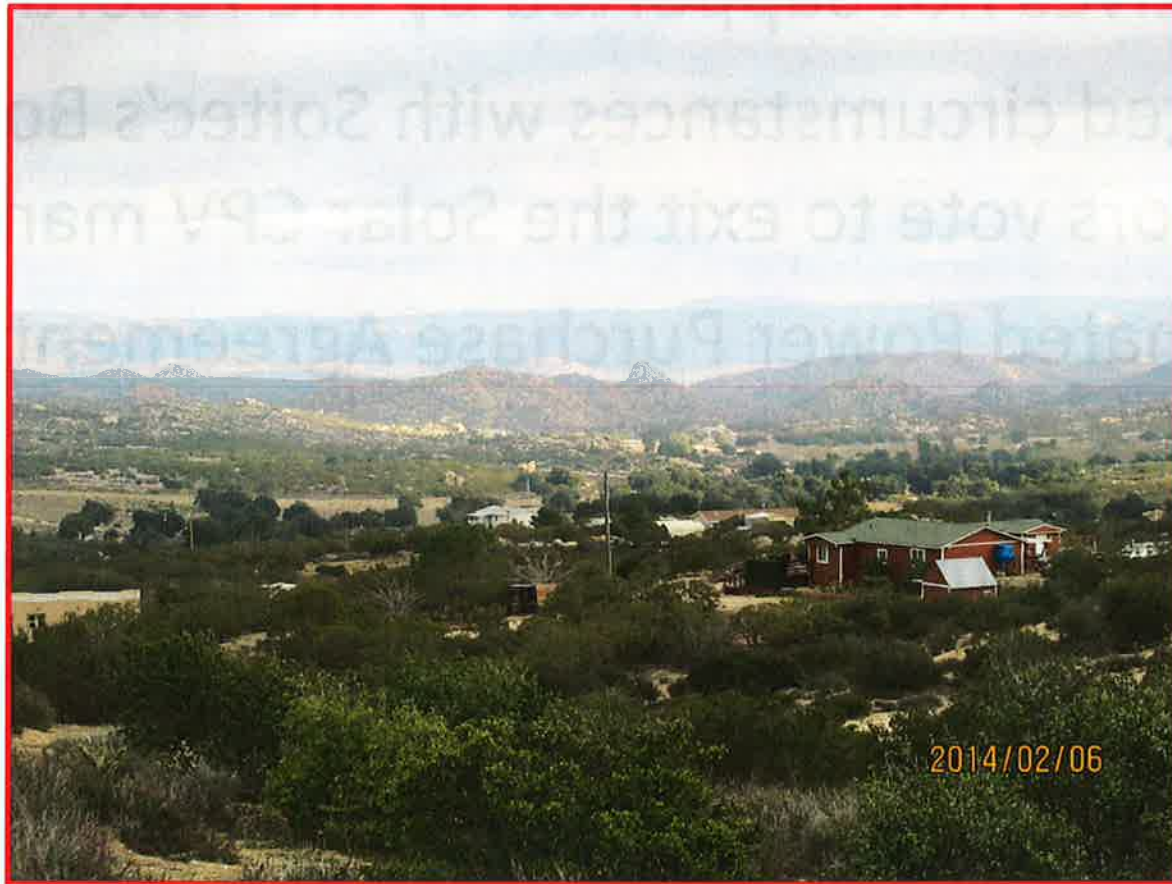
Rugged Solar site looking at Tule Creek floodplain
towards Tule Mountain —Blighted???
Golden Eagles, Big horn sheep and more...



Great view from Tierra Del Sol Road
will be blighted by new high-voltage
Gen-tie line—**UNDERGROUND THE
LINE FOR FIRE SAFETY**



Views, property values, quality of life, health and safety for Jewel Valley homeowners will be harmed by TDS Gen-tie & **INCREASED FIRE RISK**



Changed circumstances Project Objectives Not Supported

- Objectives not supported by the record
- Changed circumstances with Soitec's Board of Directors vote to exit the Solar CPV market
- Terminated Power Purchase Agreements
- Overriding considerations are contrived and cannot be met with loss of CPV manufacturing
- Rugged Solar & TDS Solar = 140 MW not 168MW

Intensity & Type of Use is ***NOT COMPATIBLE OR APPROPRIATE***

- *CPV solar is a HIGH AND DENSE INTENSITY USE*
- *NOT COMPATIBLE WITH EXISTING USES*
- *CONFLICTS* with land use plan and policy
- NOT SUITED FOR THE TYPE AND INTENSITY OF PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL SCALE ENERGY SPRAWL/BLIGHT PROJECTS

Ludicrous Plan Amendment & Double Standard...

- **Policy LU 1.2.2** Require development, including regional infrastructure and public facilities, to comply and maintain a rural bulk and scale in accordance with Boulevard community character.
- **Ludicrous Plan Amendment:** *Renewable energy projects, such as wind and solar projects, are not “regional infrastructure or public facilities” for purposes of this policy*
- **Question:** *So, how can the County claim so-called regional benefits outweigh community impacts??*

Alleged Benefits don't outweigh harm

- FEIR is disorganized, incomplete and confusing
- It severely understates and ignores significant environmental impacts
- Any alleged benefits cannot outweigh the harm
- EIR must be overhauled and re-circulated to identify and disclose deficiencies before approval can be considered.

Lack of data & mitigation regarding large storage format battery storage = increased fire risk.

http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/pds/ceqa/Soitec-Documents/Final-EIR-Files/00_AIS_Combined_OPT_January%202015_Part5.pdf

DOE just released Strategic Plan for Safety Regulation & Codes- that don't really exist!

If a typical fully charged (or overcharged) Li-ion cell undergoes a thermal runaway reaction, a number of things occur, including:

- ✓ internal temperature increases
- ✓ internal pressure increases
- ✓ Cell undergoes venting
- ✓ Cell vent gases may ignite
- ✓ Contents may be ejected
- ✓ Thermal runaway may propagate to adjacent cells.

PDS staff @ Soitec's Newberry Springs project show how huge the CPV units are when compared to EIR photos and inadequate simulations.



Glare from Soitec's UCSD CPV
unit—~coastal location is viable~



Soitec CPV glare @ Newberry Springs



Soitec/Invenergy's CPV project in Borrego Spring Shows industrial bulk and scale Previously disturbed site is scrapped bare



**Soitec will use 10 times more construction water
and twice the annual use for the
14.8 houses allowed under RL80**

- 1,185 acres @ $1/80 = 14.8$ houses
- 14.8 houses @ avg $\frac{1}{2}$ af water /year = 2.41 million gallons /year for Rugged Solar and TDS sites.
- ***Soitec's underestimated use of 23.46 million gallons from on-site wells for construction = 10 times more.***
- ***Annual use of 5.11 million gallons = 2 times more.***
- Why does 765 acre Rugged Solar estimate almost the same annual water use as 420 acre TDS Solar??

Major Groundwater issues Remain

Dudek's biased conflict-of-interest and repeated failures must be addressed

- Missed project components underestimated water use by 40% .
- Failure to use new water data from Soitec's Desert Green that indicates additional 60% increase needed for Boulevard
- Dudek's ECO Substation work—where water use increased from estimated 30 million gallons to 90 million gallons.
- Failed to predict groundwater impacts that curtailed pumping within 60 days at Madera Golf Course in Poway—when SDSU's Dr. Ponce accurately predicted those impacts –just like Ponce has predicted Soitec impacts: <http://ponce.sdsu.edu/tcgwss.html>

McCallister family reports well problems since Rough Acres Ranch was purchased by Hamanns and pumping increased—they are in their 80's with health problems



Ribbonwood Road area homes around Rugged Solar well field, looking west



Rugged Solar site view from McCain Conservation Camp — *not blighted*



SDSU's Dr Ponce surveying riparian area at and next to TDS site—drought and project water use impacts



2 Soitec projects = 185 city blocks
2 square miles zoned for 1 house/80 acres

MAJOR NEW FIRE HAZARD
IN UNDERSERVED AREA

- 1,185 acres for Rugged Solar & Tierra Del Sol
- Approximately = 185 square city blocks
- 2 square miles of currently open carbon sequestering rangelands / chaparral targeted for MSCP
- **Sites are zoned for RL80 = 1 house / 80 acres**
- ***We are 100% groundwater reliant***

3.6 acres of existing impacts
DO NOT justify 1,200 acres of impacts

- 157,000 sq ft or so (3.6 acres) of commercial development (most under federal or CPUC authority) was used inappropriately to justify industrial conversion of 1,200 acres of scenic open space.
- Tule Wind may never be built:
 - NO Power Purchase Agreements, No Eagle Take Permit, No State Lands Lease—extension requested from BLM to build after Jan 1, 2017.

SDG&E's new overhead 138kV line and roads through Jacumba—just like Soitec's



Underground section of new double 138kV line in Jewel Valley, Boulevard—as required by the CPUC—Soitec's lines should also be required to underground lines.



Soitec Exits the Solar Business

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/French-CPV-Hopeful-Soitec-Exits-the-Solar-Business>

Issues 100 Pink Slips @ San Diego CPV plant

- ***“Soitec...has abandoned its solar business”.***
- CPV's riskiness in terms of price, reliability and bankability has prevented the technology from achieving commercialization and scale
- ***No business, no plant = no alleged benefits***

Soitec admits social & economic benefits negated by lost PPA

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M143/K522/143522462.PDF>

- Dec 5th, 2014: Soitec attorney Jerry Bloom wrote to the CPUC claiming “the social and economic benefits” of the San Diego Soitec plant were negated by the loss of the Tenaska contract.
- ***The same holds true for the termination of Soitec’s Boulevard Power Purchase Agreements***
- ***So-called regional benefits are now negated and cannot support Project objectives or ORC***

Are GHG conditions enforceable?

- Soitec's voluntary purchase of carbon credits is squishy.
- What is the enforcement mechanism?
- Conditions need to be rewritten to address project changes with valid enforceable.
- What is County doing to off-set GHG emissions overall?

SDG&E has 300MW DG customers DG alternative is feasible!

<https://www.sdge.com/sites/default/files/documents/455188253/ESS%204%20MW%20RFP%20-%20Bidders%20Conference%20Jan%2013%202015.pdf?nid=13481>

- Distributed Generation is feasible & preferable
- Jan 2015: SDG&E has 300 MW of net metering customers—growing quickly...
- County should be focusing on mandating / incentivizing EE and DG alternatives NOW as part of Comprehensive Renewable Energy Plan.
- *New and existing structures and parking lots should be solarized before fire-prone rural open space and communities are sacrificed for naught*

Distributed Generation (DG) Alternative is feasible and preferable

- DG helps in achieving RPS and GHG-reduction Goals.
- Increases local generation and helps grid reliability.
- Can be located closer to existing users and transmission.
- Produces substantial investments in economic development and jobs.

Boulevard's future??

Solar conversion of Imperial Valley farm land



Cancer & electrical hazard signs

Buddy system required

@ existing solar projects



Failure to notify Mexico

- Long list in Volker Law comments & others
- Predetermination of outcome.
- Failure to notify Mexico or analyze Tierra Del Sol Solar impacts—including transboundary groundwater.
- Dr. Ponce's report documents that Mexico was not notified of TDS project.

Late posted memos...how can it be “socially irresponsible” to reduce impacts?

- Numerous late posted memos –after 24 hour deadline-- in response to FEIR comments, denies public adequate time to review and respond
- Soitec’s claim in new Glare memo that it would be “*socially irresponsible*” to adjust trackers at end of day to reduce glare impacts (as recommended by Commissioners) is morally and ethically irresponsible behavior towards impacted neighbors.

WHOOO...has the right stuff
to vote NO?

